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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING REDUNDANT ACCESS TO METADATA OVER A NETWORK**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **711/162**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** .... None
　　See application file for complete search history.

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(57)　　　　　　**ABSTRACT**

Systems and methods for data classification to facilitate and improve data management within an enterprise are described. The disclosed systems and methods evaluate and define data management operations based on data characteristics rather than data location, among other things. Also provided are methods for generating a data structure of metadata that describes system data and storage operations. This data structure may be consulted to determine changes in system data rather than scanning the data files themselves.

20 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets

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